

D-758  
Pine Grove Friends Meetinghouse  
Federalburg vicinity  
c. 1775-80, 1800-01, c. 1913-15

Although altered as a bungalow around 1913-15, the former Pine Grove Friends Meetinghouse, originally the Northwest Fork Nicolite Meetinghouse, is the only structure in Dorchester County to survive as a representation of these religious sects that were active within the Eastern Shore counties during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Despite later exterior and interior layers dating from the early twentieth century, the structure retains a large amount of historic fabric including a winder staircase, flush ship-lap interior sheathing and an exposed beam ceiling with chamfered edge joists. Wrought iron nails are found throughout the structural framing and interior sheathing.

The original single-story, one-room plan structure was erected in Federalburg by the Nicolites around 1775-80. Following the teachings of Joseph Nicols and founded locally around 1774, the Nicolite sect was closely related to the Quaker religion, although the Nicolites were stricter than the Friends in terms of advocating plainer fashion in dress and furnishings. After merging with the local Friends congregation during the 1790s, the Northwest Fork Meetinghouse was enlarged in 1800-01 to house the larger membership as well as serve as the location for the regular gatherings of the newly created Northwest Fork Monthly Meeting separate from the Third Haven meeting in Easton. The two-room interior, separated by a sliding partition between the rooms, allowed the flexibility of one large space during monthly meetings or individual spaces when required, particularly during segregated business meetings of the male and female members. Implementation of the addition, which included a low gallery and a sliding

partition in the middle, was supervised by William Needles, Willis Charles, and Levin Wright. The Nicolite/Friends congregations reached their maximum membership during the early nineteenth century. After around 1830, the size of the congregations started to dwindle for a host of reasons. In an effort to provide easier access for the memberships of the Northwest Fork and Marshy Creek (Preston) congregations, the Northwest Fork meetinghouse was moved several miles west of its original location and sited on a parcel known as "Theirs and Mine," which was purchased from Silas Jones by Friends members William Corkran, Samuel Pool, and Joshua Noble in December 1847. When the meetinghouse was relocated to its new site the name was changed to Pine Grove Meetinghouse. The members of the congregation in Caroline and Dorchester counties continued to use the meetinghouse until the late nineteenth century. The last monthly meeting was held on July 11, 1888. Although a plan to sell the property surfaced in the late 1890s, it was not formally sold until 1913 when it was purchased by William M. Caulk. The meetinghouse was converted into a bungalow shortly afterwards, and it has remained in Caulk family ownership to this day.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-758

### 1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Northwest Fork Meetinghouse  
other Pine Grove Meetinghouse

### 2. Location

street and number Preston-Federalsburg Road not for publication  
city, town Federalsburg x vicinity  
county Dorchester

### 3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name William M. Caulk, Jr.  
street and number 5111 Preston-Federalsburg Road telephone 401-301-1051  
city, town Federalsburg state MD zip code 21632

### 4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber WLR 5 folio 576  
city, town Cambridge tax map 2 tax parcel 28 tax ID number 12-00391

### 5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District  
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District  
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register  
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER  
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT  
☐ Other:

### 6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: none	

Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory  
1

## 7. Description

Inventory No. D-758

### Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

### DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The old Pine Grove Friends Meetinghouse, formerly the Northwest Fork Nicolite or Quaker Meetinghouse, is located on the south side of the Preston-Federalsburg Road approximately a mile east of the Caroline/Dorchester County line. The old meeting house was relocated to this site 1847-48 from its original site in the town of Federalsburg. The rectangular single-story frame structure, converted into a house around 1913-15, is supported on a concrete block foundation and the exterior is sheathed with plain weatherboards. The steeply pitched roof is covered with a remnant layer of asphalt shingles over wood shingles. The house faces north with the gable roof oriented on an east/west axis.

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Pine Grove Meetinghouse, originally the Northwest Fork Meetinghouse, was erected in two distinct stages beginning around 1775-80 with a single-story 20' by 18' one-room plan frame structure that was enlarged in 1800-01 to include a 12' addition to the west end. The seam between the two sections is clearly evident in an early twentieth century image of the structure.<sup>1</sup> Reworked around 1913-15, the old meetinghouse structure is supported by a concrete block foundation, it is sheathed with plain weatherboard siding. The medium pitched gable roof is covered with wood shingles. A single flue brick stove chimney pierces the roofline in an off center location. Attached to the back of the meetinghouse structure is a shed roofed addition dating around 1915.

The north (main) elevation is a three-bay façade with a center entrance and flanking single-pane sash windows. The partially glazed door remains in place, however the siding around the entrance is missing, which exposes the mortise-and-tenon timber frame of the meetinghouse. There was a front entrance porch which is no longer surviving as well. The roof is defined by a centrally positioned shed roofed dormer fitted with a pair of one-over-one sash windows. The base of the roof is finished with a boxed cornice.

The west gable end is marked by a single one-over-one sash window opening in the center of the end wall, although the sash have deteriorated. There is a single window opening that lights the loft as well. The opposite gable end is defined by a single pane sash window on the first floor and another window opening that pierces the gable end. The end wall of the rear shed roofed section is defined by a six-over-six sash window.

The south (rear) wall of the reworked structure has a center entrance flanked by single-pane sash windows. The center section of the south wall appears to have been infilled with the side bays originally sheathed with weatherboard siding.

<sup>1</sup> Kenneth Carroll, *Quakerism on the Eastern Shore*, Baltimore, MD: The Maryland Historical Society, 1970. Courtesy of the Friends Historical Library, Swarthmore College.

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## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Inside, the bungalow is divided into five principal rooms on the first floor, and the second floor is an undivided, unfinished space with exposed rafter blades and collar beams. The interior dates from the early twentieth century for the most part, however several sections of wallboard and ceiling have been removed to exposed original historic fabric. In the northeast room, a hole has been opened up in the ceiling to reveal slightly chamfered floor joists that support an original wide pine floor. Along the north wall in this room, a section of wallboard has been removed to reveal a small section of shiplaped interior sheathing fastened with wrought nails. Another section or two has been opened up in the northwest room as well.

Fixed in the southeast corner of the eighteenth century structure is the original staircase, a tight winder stair that is enclosed behind a beaded board-and-batten door that appears to have been relocated from somewhere else. The door has been cut down to a small size to fit the stair opening. A wrought iron thumb latch remains in place. The large roundish mounting plates are fastened with wrought nails. Behind the staircase door is an unfinished space with the diagonal board sheathing running parallel with the rise and run of the staircase. The wide pine flooring on the second floor is original and a distinct seam in the flooring marks the shift in construction for the two separate buildings.

## 8. Significance

Inventory No. D-758

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	entertainment/	landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	recreation	law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	settlement	military	other: _____

Specific dates 1800-01

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

### SUMMARY SIGNIFICANCE

Although altered as a bungalow around 1913-15, the former Pine Grove Friends Meetinghouse, originally the Northwest Fork Nicolite Meetinghouse, is the only structure in Dorchester County representative of these religious movements that was active within the Eastern Shore counties during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Despite the later exterior and interior layers from the early twentieth century, the structure retains a large amount of historic fabric including a winder staircase, flush ship-lap interior sheathing and an exposed beam ceiling with chamfered edge joists. Wrought iron nails are found throughout the framing and interior sheathing.

### HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The original single-story, one-room plan structure was erected in Federalsburg by the Nicolites around 1775-80. Following the teachings of Joseph Nicols and founded locally around 1774, the Nicolite sect was closely related to the Quaker religion, although the Nicolites were stricter than the Friends in terms of advocating plainer fashion in clothing and furnishings.<sup>2</sup> After merging with the local Friends congregation during the 1790s, the Northwest Fork Meetinghouse was enlarged in 1800-01 to house the larger membership as well as serve as the location of the monthly meetings of the regional congregations separate from the Third Haven meeting in Easton. The two-room interior, separated by a sliding partition between, allowed the flexibility of one large space during monthly meetings or individual spaces when required, particularly during segregated business meetings between the male and female members of the congregation. Implementation of the addition, including a low gallery and the sliding partition, was supervised by William Needles, Willis Charles, and Levin Wright.<sup>3</sup> The Nicolite/Quaker congregations reached their maximum following during the early nineteenth century, and after around 1820-30, the memberships in the various congregations started to dwindle. In an effort to provide easier access for the memberships of the Northwest Fork and Marshy Creek (Preston) the

<sup>2</sup> Kenneth Carroll, *Quakerism on the Eastern Shore*. Baltimore, Maryland: The Maryland Historical Society, 1970, p. 118.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid*, p. 170.



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## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Pine Grove Friends Meetinghouse  
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Northwest Fork meetinghouse was moved several miles west of its original location and sited on a parcel known as "Theirs and Mine" purchased from Silas Jones by Friends members William Corkran, Samuel Pool, and Joshua Noble in December 1847.<sup>4</sup> When the meetinghouse was relocated to its new site the name was changed to Pine Grove Meetinghouse.<sup>5</sup> The members of the congregation in Caroline and Dorchester counties continued to use the meetinghouse until the late nineteenth century. The last monthly meeting was held on July 11, 1888.<sup>6</sup> Although a plan to sell the property surfaced in the 1890s, it was not formally sold until 1913 when it was purchased by William M. Caulk.<sup>7</sup> The meetinghouse was converted into a bungalow shortly afterwards, and it has remained in family hands to this day.

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<sup>4</sup> Dorchester County Land Record, WJ 6/221, 4 December 1847, Dorchester County Courthouse.

<sup>5</sup> *Op cit.*, pp. 174-75.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid*, p. 179.

<sup>7</sup> Dorchester County Land Record, WLR 5/576, 1.7.1913. Dorchester County Courthouse.

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## Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Pine Grove Friends Meetinghouse  
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Pine Grove Friends Meetinghouse  
Federalburg-Preston Road

Kenneth Carroll, *Quakerism on the Eastern Shore*. Baltimore, MD: The Maryland Historical Society, 1970, p. 118-19, 169-71

pp. 118-19, Nicolite faith, begun in 1774 by Joseph Nichols. They practiced a more severe form of Quakerism with attention to plainer clothing and furniture.

Many merged with larger Quaker congregations beginning during the late 1790s. At the time they had three separate meeting locations; Northwest Fork (Federalburg), Centre at Concord; and one on Tuckahoe Neck near Denton. In 1799, the remaining Nicolites of the Northwest Fork congregation conveyed title of the property to the Friends.

Regional Monthly meeting of the three congregations was considered in 1799 as a separate district separate from the Third Haven Monthly meeting. In 1800 the Northwest Fork Monthly Meeting was established.

pp. 169-79

By the early nineteenth century there were five Quaker meetings in Caroline County serving the northeast end of Dorchester County. (Greensboro, Tuckahoe Neck, Centre, Marshy Creek (Preston, originally Snow Hill), and Northwest Fork)

p. 171. With the establishment of the Monthly Meeting at Northwest Fork meetinghouse it was found necessary to enlarge that building, deeded to the Friends in 1799 by the Nicolites in order to accommodate the larger Monthly meetings. William Needles, Willis Charles, and Levin Wright were appointed on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 1800 to superintend the alteration of the meeting house, "to erect and build an addition of twelve feet to the west end and erect a low gallery; run a sliding partition through the middle with such alterations as may appear necessary." A stove was purchased for this meetinghouse in 1802. This building also housed a school, begun in 1803 under the supervision of Robert Foxwell, a former Nicolite. Hold classes in the east end of the building. Earliest of Quaker schools known in Caroline County. (Minutes of the Northwest Fork Monthly Meeting are grouped with the records of Third Haven Monthly Meeting and are held at the Maryland State Archives.

The partition was installed so that the room could be separated into two spaces for male and female business



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Name Pine Grove Friends Meetinghouse  
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meetings.

p. 174-75.

At the middle of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, several of the meeting houses were moved. On the 12<sup>th</sup> of November 1844, the Monthly meeting appointed Nathan Corkran, Jacob Leverton, Henry Pool, Joshua Noble, Henry Corkran and William Meloney to "take into consideration the propriety of moving Northwest Fork meetinghouse, or building one in a more convenient place for members thereof." The Friends decided to move the meetinghouse when they found a suitable lot of ground, containing one acre. On the 11<sup>th</sup> of August 1847, William Corkran, Samuel Pool, and Joshua Noble were appointed in charge of superintending the relocation of Northwest Fork's meetinghouse. It was relocated three miles west of its original site just over the county line in Dorchester County. Its name was changed to the Pine Grove Meeting on 16 August 1848. Joshua Noble was placed in charge of recording the deed.

p. 179

Last monthly meeting held at Pine Grove was on 11 July 1888.

p. 180.

In 1899 it was decided to sell Pine Grove meetinghouse and grounds, however a dispute with the heirs of Joshua Noble (John Henry Noble, Mark Edward Noble, and William Alfred Noble) said that they "defied Friends to sell the property for they would spend every dollar they have to defeat the sale," and they further said that they [Friends] were "robbers to attempt to sell their property" and said that they "held the original deed" and shook it at us, saying that "we should never have it, that they held the title as heirs of their father, Joshua Noble."

pp. 180-81.

The Monthly meeting decided to do nothing with the property at that time. It was ultimately sold in 1913 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February to William Caulk. The house was subsequently converted into a house, who lived there until 1935. The property passed to William F. Caulk, who lived in the converted meeting house until the early to mid 1960s. Visited by Kenneth Carroll on January 1, 1963 and it was in good repair. There was one bench from the meetinghouse that was stored in the attic.

# Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

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Name Pine Grove Friends Meetinghouse  
**Continuation Sheet**

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Pine Grove Farm  
5111 Preston-Federsburg Road  
Federsburg vicinity, Dorchester County, Maryland

Map 2/ Parcel 16

Dorchester County  
Land Record  
260/304

William Francis Caulk, Sr., Hazel Caulk Welch, Louise Caulk Behnen

to

1.22.1990

William F. Caulk, Jr. and Danee W. Caulk

Parcel No. 1, Same land conveyed unto William M. Caulk and John H. Caulk  
"Theirs and Mine" Joseph Caulk lot, FJH 8/186, 10.15.1870

Parcel No. 2, 5 4/10 acres

Parcel No. 3, William M Caulk to John Lentz Caulk, CL 25/265, 12.17.1900  
34 acres

PLC 236/825

William Francis Caulk, Sr., Hazel Caulk Welch, Louise Caulk Behnen,  
Maude C. Caulk

to

9.30.1985

William Francis Caulk, Sr., Hazel Caulk Welch and Louise Caulk Behnen

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WLR 5/576 John Poole, trustees of the Northwest Fork Monthly Meeting

to

1.7.1913 William M. Caulk

Pine Grove Meeting House property ½ acre \$90.00

WJ 6/221 Silas Jones

to

12.4.1847 Trustees of North-West Fork Meeting

Joshua Noble, Dorchester County and Henry Corkran and Henry Pool,  
Caroline County, members of the North West Fork Monthly Meeting of  
the Religious Society of Friends

"Theirs or Mine" "Mollydicks Regulation" \$10.00

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. D-758

Carroll, Kenneth. *Quakerism on the Eastern Shore*. Baltimore, MD: The Maryland Historical Society, 1970.

Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse.

Personal Interview with William F. Caulk, Jr., 3.4.08, Pine Grove Farm, Federalsburg vicinity.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 1 acre

Acreage of historical setting 1/2 acre

Quadrangle name Federalsburg, MD Quad.

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this surveyed site are coincidental with the current boundary of the property.

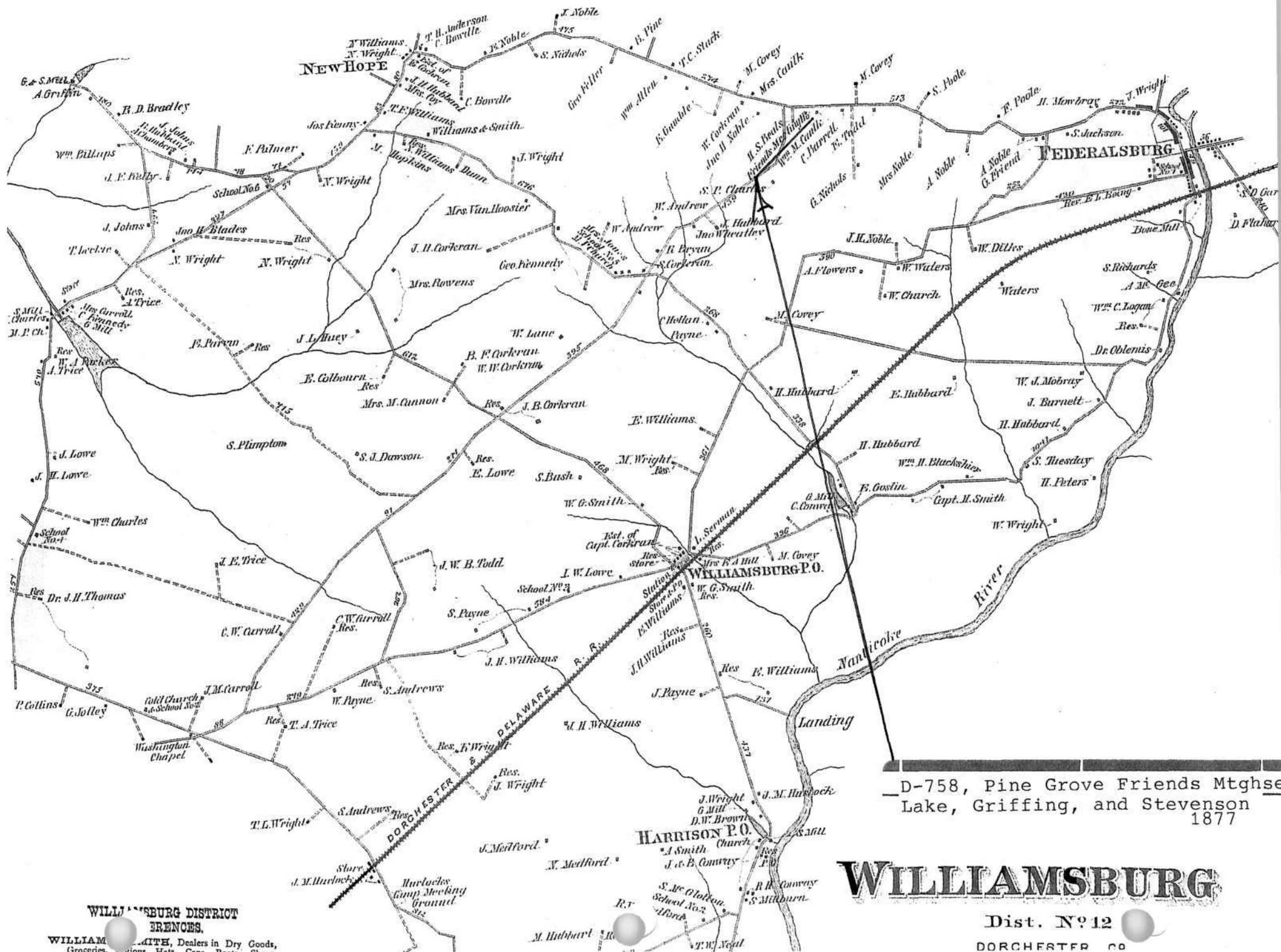
## 11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	3/3/2008
street & number	Cedar Hill, P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust  
DHCD/DHCP  
100 Community Place  
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023  
410-514-7600





D-758, Pine Grove Friends Mtghouse  
Federalsburg, MD Quadrangle





Pine Grove Meeting House, west of Federalsburg on the road to Preston, Dorchester County. This eighteen by twenty-six foot building originally belonged to the Nicholites and stood in Federalsburg. About fifty years after it was signed over to Friends, the building was moved to its present location and renamed Pine Grove. Today it has been converted to a dwelling and is owned by William F. Caulk.

Courtesy of Friends Historical Library, Swarthmore College

D-758





D-758

Pine Grove Meeting House  
FEDERHARTSBURG VII. DOCKETSON W. MD.  
WEST ELEVATION

3/08, PAUL TONART, PHOTOGRAPHER  
W. MD. HISTORICAL TRUST



D-758

PINE GROVE MEETING HOUSE

FEDERALSBURG VIC., DORCHESTER CO., MD.

SOUTH ELEVATION

3/08, PAUL TOWANT, PHOTOGRAPHER

N.E.G. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST





D-758

PINE GROVE MEETING HOUSE

FEDERALS BURN VIC., DORCHESTER Co. MA

SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

3/08, PAUL TOWANT, PHOTOGRAPHER

WEL. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST



D-758

PINE GROVE MEETING HOUSE  
FEDERALSBURG VIC.,

DORCHESTER Co. MD.  
NORTH ELEVATION

3/08, PAUL TOUANT, PHOTO.  
NEG. (MD. HIST. TRUSS

4/a



D-758

PINE GROVE MEETING HOUSE

FEDERALSBURG, MD. DOCKETED G.  
MD.

WINDEN STARK-WIDE YELLOW PINE  
SHEATHING

3/08, PAUL TOWART, PHOTOGRAPHER  
NETS. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST





D-758

PINE GROVE MEETING HOUSE  
FEDERALSBURG, VIC., DORCHESTER CO.  
MD.  
EXPOSED CHAMPANES EDGE JOIST  
3/08, PAUL TOWNSEND, PHOTOGRAPHER  
NEH/MD HISTORICAL TRUST

2/10



D-758

PINE GROVE MEETING HOUSE  
FEDERALSBURG VIC.,  
DORCHESTER Co., MD.  
WINTER STAIR

3/08, PAUL TOWANT, PAVIL.  
NEB. / MD. HISTORICAL  
TRUST

7/9



D-758

PINE GROVE MEETING HOUSE  
FEDERALSBURG NC,

DORCHESTER Co. MD

STAIRCASE DOOR

3/08, PAUL TOWANT, PHOTO.

NB: MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

8/9





D-758

PINE GROVE MEETING HOUSE  
FEDERALSBURG VIC., DOCKETT CO.  
IND

ATTIC - ROOF FRAME

3/08, PAUL TOWART, PHOTOGRAPHER  
NEF / IND. HISTORICAL TRUST

9/9